

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 7 of the Specification, as follows:

-- Preferably, the deformable model used in block 100 of FIG. 1 comprises a modified version of the physics-based deformable model disclosed in Metaxas, et al., "Image Segmentation Based on the Integration of Markov Random Fields and Deformable Models," The ~~Fourth~~ Third International Conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention, 2000, pp. 256-265, the entire disclosure of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference. However, other models could be used. In the Metaxas, et al. deformable model, the reference shape is the set of nodes corresponding to the boundary points computed by the present invention. Given this reference shape r , and the displacement S (local deformation), the position of points p on the model is described by:

$$p = r + s \quad (16)$$

To keep the continuity of the model surface, a continuous loaded membrane deformation strain energy is imposed on the model. The model nodes move under the influence of external forces. The model dynamics are described by the first order Lagrangian method. --